

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord . . . Put off the old man, which is corrupt . . . and be renewed in the spirit of your mind . . . that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."—
(EPHESIANS 4: 17-24.)

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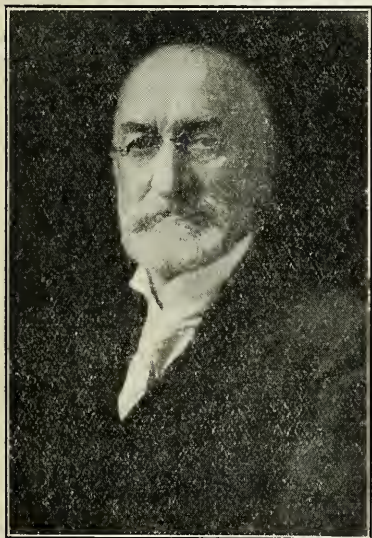
GREETINGS FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

OF THE

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

WE EXTEND our greetings and give our blessing to the members of the Church and to people everywhere who are sincere searchers for truth.

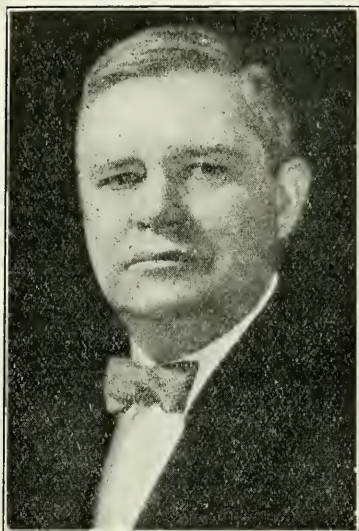
As we pause in life's duties to extend these felicitations of the season, we are not unmindful of those into whose homes Death has entered and left vacancies and sorrowing hearts. Time continually takes its toll of loved ones. During the year now ending the Church has mourned with bereaved relatives the passing of a number of valiant leaders, in wards and stakes, and among the General Authorities. Gloriously have these noble servants merited the encomiums paid them. May the true spirit of Christ our Redeemer give comfort to all whom Death has caused to mourn. May the Saviour's promise, given not only to His Apostles of old, but to all other true followers, bring solace to aching hearts as it must have done to His disciples when He said: "I go to prepare a place for you ! . . . that where I am, there ye may be also."



PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

The Lord's Resurrection proclaims to all mankind a message of hope and comfort, as His birth heralds joy, peace, and good will.

Almost two millenniums ago, the Son of God was born among men. To the watchful shepherds in Palestine, round about whom shone the glory of the Lord, came the Angel announcing the



PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK

Messianic birth, while a multitude of the heavenly host, who were with the Angel, sang—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men." In Zarahemla, in the Western World, on the eve of the decreed death of the righteous who believed in the Christ, the Lord Himself came to the Prophet of God, announcing His birth on the morrow, and then followed the long promised sign :

And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it were mid-day.

In the divine ministry of His life, the Lord proclaimed the Gospel, and as a mortal being gave us the example of the perfect man.

The Gospel is a plan for the guidance of men in their minglings together here as mortals, and for their direction in their spiritual lives to the end that they may be saved and exalted in the world to come. The Gospel is not a social programme though its living on this earth involves one, if greed and avarice, covetousness, and selfishness be trodden under foot, and if ambition, envy, and love of earthly power and dominion be cast out. The Gospel is eternal truth, existent from eternity to eternity ; it is all truth.

The Gospel teaches us to look first to the inward things of life, to our spiritual being ; all outward things are for the growth, benefit, and aid of the inward.

The pleasures and the ills of the flesh are fleeting ; we speak today, tomorrow our voices are hushed. All that which exalts and makes ease and pleasures the precious goal of this life is from Evil.

God looks to our eternal souls ; His care rests over that which helps the soul in its everlasting struggle against wrong. He is mindful of our material well-being only as it helps us to purify, strengthen, and give growth to our spirits. His mind never forgets that basic truth, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

In these times, when many are pleading that we place foremost our fleshly ease and comfort, or bodily and worldly convenience, or frivolous lightmindedness, we shall do well to call to remembrance the Master's command :

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal ;

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.

Paul's admonition to Timothy, his dearly beloved son in the faith, is as applicable to the world to-day as when he wrote, out of deep experience and communion with the Master :

Godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment let us therewith be content.

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil ; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things ; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

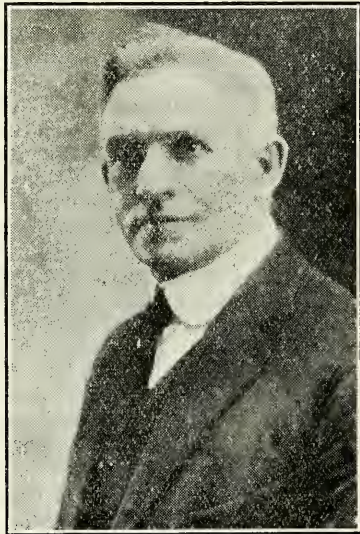
We deeply deplore the privations that have come to the people ; we are sensible to the inquietude of mind and spirit with which many suffer ; we sympathize with them in every distress with which they are afflicted ; but we promise the people that their burdens will be lightened and surcease will come from their trials and griefs in so far as they keep the commandments of the Lord, with an eye single to His glory.

Speaking to the multitude on the Mount the Saviour said :

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness ; and all these things shall be added unto you.

God will pour out His richest blessings upon all His faithful people ; and we bless you with comfort, and with peace, and joy in mind and spirit, in the measure that you keep His commandments.

HEBER J. GRANT
J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.
DAVID O. MCKAY



PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

“WITHIN the Gospel of Jesus Christ I find the true philosophy of life with all the virtues, the encouragements, the restraints, the hopes and the satisfactions that my soul can desire. Within the Restored Church of Christ are the agencies, facilities and powers to make the Gospel effective in the lives of men.”—STEPHEN L. RICHARDS.

TO ALL M. I. A. WORKERS—GREETINGS

FROM THE M. I. A. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

“**P**EACE I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Nearly two thousand years ago Jesus Christ, the Lord, the Saviour of the world, spoke thus to His disciples gathered in an upper room.

To those who believed fully in His majesty and power, that message of good cheer is still filled with peaceful assurance. The world may be at war; other men may tear at each other's throats, but if, in our hearts, we have an abiding love for God and His children we can forgive—we can understand and be at peace.

At this Christmas time we rejoice that we have confidence in His eternal goodness. Jesus is the Christ; He has spoken in our day and at the head of His work stand three, the First Presidency of the Church, ready and willing to carry on His work.

Not long ago we celebrated with the saints in all the world the birthday of our President, Heber J. Grant. He has lived a long life devoted to the Gospel. During all of his seventy-eight years he has gone forth in all the world preaching the Glad Tidings of Great Joy that God is good and has not left His children without witness in these days. For sixteen years he has stood at the helm of this Church guiding its destiny with a sure and certain hand, with his eyes fixed upon the word of the Lord which has served as compass and guide—a Liahona of unfailing power.

With a trust that has been beautiful to behold, President Grant has walked steadily forward. At his side stand two sturdy men of learning, possessed of the qualities of leadership, full of faith and eager to serve. These three, supported and sustained by the other General Authorities, by the hundreds of thousands of Latter-day Saints throughout the world, and by the inspiration of our Heavenly Father, will lead us into peace.

We rejoice in the progress that has been made by the world. We see upon every hand evidences that the teachings of the Master are finding root in human hearts. Though there are still countless problems to solve, we have faith that the Guide who walked in Galilee has left solutions when men learn to apply them, and has appointed inspired leaders to assist men to understand.

We are pleased with the progress which has been made by the Mutual Improvement Associations. Our young people in all parts of the world have found wholesome activity and an opportunity to serve. They have drawn into their socials and parties as well as into their classes thousands of young men and women in search of a pure, spiritual atmosphere and of wholesome, clean entertainment. Truly the heaven has been hidden in the measure of meal throughout the world and joyful are the words of praise which come to us.

May the Mutual Improvement Associations do their utmost to make the coming holiday season all that the Master would have it. Let us remember that inasmuch as we do it unto the least of these His children we are doing it unto Him. All who follow in

His footsteps will find a peace and joy that will pass understanding, for peace is found in the soul, not in outward things. Joy springs from the heart, not from worldly possessions or fame or power.

M. I. A. organizations are charged with the responsibility of directing the social and cultural activities of their particular wards and branches. It is our hope that these young people, under the counsel and advice of the bishopric, or branch presidency, will plan and foster a programme which will be satisfying on account of its excellence. The Church is reaching a cultural maturity, and all our activities should reflect that maturity.

We favour high grade dances and socials on a ward and stake, or branch and district basis. We are eager to see our young people enjoying themselves everywhere, especially when that enjoyment can be accompanied by activities which will give them grace and culture of body, of mind and spirit. Ours is a joyous Gospel, a social Gospel—the plan inaugurated by the Master who loved to visit with His friends and converse with them on social as well as on spiritual subjects. He was present at the wedding feast; He banqueted with His friends; He visited at the homes of those whom He loved and who loved Him. We would be glad to have our people follow in His footsteps, but we should like them always to deport themselves as if He were present with them. Thousands followed Him, attracted by His sparkling conversation, His marvellous stories, His ease and grace.

THE holiday season should be one of joy. It celebrates the birth of Him who gave to the world its greatest gift and its loftiest ideals. Truly it should be a time of thanksgiving.

The season also marks the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith, through whom the Gospel in its purity and fulness was restored. He became a true follower of the Saviour, laying the foundations once again for peace and happiness on earth, and hope in an after life. He also emphasized the importance of social activity and made plans for wholesome and uplifting entertainment which have been followed by all of his successors in the First Presidency of the Church.

We trust that our M. I. A. workers in all the world will enjoy the Christmas holiday season; that conditions will make it possible for you to feel in your hearts the benign influence of the spirit of the Master and of traditional Christmas. To you we send greetings, praying the Lord to guide and protect and build you up in your most holy faith.

God has spoken from the heavens in our day; He has established His kingdom upon the earth never more to be thrown down or given to another people; He has placed at its head leaders through whom He can make known His will, and we are happy to bear testimony to their worth and their works. May God bless and keep us all and fill our hearts with brotherly kindness for all men.

GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

RICHARD R. LYMAN

MELVIN J. BALLARD

RUTH MAY FOX

LUCY GRANT CANNON

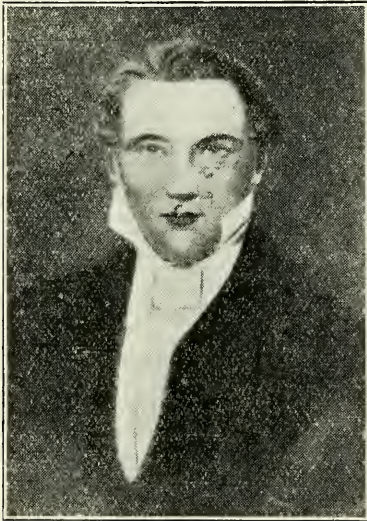
CLARISSA A. BEESLEY

Y. M. M. I. A. Superintendency. Y. W. M. I. A. Presidency.

THE POETIC QUALITY IN
THE WRITINGS OF JOSEPH SMITH

By I. B. BALL

“RELIGION is related to poetry as life is related to art. Religion is life, the life of God in the soul of man. . . . Poetry is an interpretation of life. . . . There is poetry that is not religious, and there is religion that has but little to do with poetry, but the greatest poetry is always that which sets forth the facts of the religious life,” says Washington Gladden.



THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

daughter of Sylvester Smith. David Smith, son of the Prophet, wrote words and melody to that haunting composition, “The Unknown Grave.”

Listen to these phrases from the eighty-eighth section of the Doctrine and Covenants:

The earth rolls upon her wings,
And the sun giveth his light by day,
And the moon giveth her light by night,
And the stars also give their light
As they roll on their wings in their glory,
In the midst of the power of God.

Unto what shall I liken these kingdoms,
That ye may understand?
Behold, all these are kingdoms,
And any man who has seen any or the least of these
Hath seen God moving in his majesty and power.

Compare this with the beautiful Nineteenth Psalm, and I think

the simple words of the Prophet do not lose by the comparison, although he was unlettered, while the Psalm is the work in translation of scholars :

The heavens declare the glory of God ;
 And the firmament showeth his handiwork.
 Day unto day uttereth speech,
 Night unto night sheweth knowledge.
 There is no speech nor language,
 Where their voice is not heard.
 Their line is gone out through all the earth,
 And their words to the ends of the world.

It is noteworthy that both the Psalmist and the Prophet were moved poetically by the theme of the starry heavens, for Stevenson speaks of "their serene and gladsome influence on the mind. The greater part of poetry is about the stars; and justly so, for they are themselves the most classical of poets."

And for an example of the gift to pack great thoughts into small spaces, but in majestic symmetry and perfect order let the reader consider the last two verses of the memorable one hundred twenty-first section :

Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men,
 And to the household of faith,
 And let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly ;
 Then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God ;
 And the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul
 As the dews from heaven.

The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion,
 And thy sceptre an unchanging sceptre of righteousness and truth ;
 And thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion,
 And without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee
 Forever and ever.

That phrase, "and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever" reminds one of "Waiting" by John Burroughs:

Serene, I fold my hands and wait,
 Nor care for wind nor tide nor sea ;
 I rave no more 'gainst time nor fate,
 For lo ! my own shall come to me.

What matter if I stand alone ?
 I wait with joy the coming years ;
 My heart shall reap what it has sown,
 And garner up its fruit of tears.

The stars come nightly to the sky ;
 The tidal wave unto the sea ;
 Nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high,
 Can keep my own away from me.

Surely it is profitable to contemplate the beauty of expression and the sublimity of conceptions that were original with the Inspiration that rested upon the latter-day Prophet, Joseph Smith.—(*Improvement Era*, December, 1934.)

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1935

EDITORIAL

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

TO the saints and friends of the Church in all the missions of the European group under our presidency we send our most cordial New Year's greetings and heartiest wishes that the year 1935 may be satisfactorily successful and joyous. We know that the circumstances surrounding many of you are not the most propitious. We sincerely wish they were and would gladly make them so if we could. But we should all remember that conditions are never so bad but that they might be worse; for this at least we always have reason to be thankful.

Among our gifts is that of faith. And do any of us have any greater or more desirable gift than this? Is there any human soul more in need of sympathy and help than he who is so blind that he cannot see God in anything, or is so numb that he never feels the presence of the Holy Spirit? Among other good gifts is that of a willingness to cultivate cheerfulness even under unfavourable circumstances. But the writer's wish and prayer is that every one who reads these lines will find 1935 the best and most profitable year that he or she has yet experienced.

Further, we hope the new year will have more blessings in store for all men and nations than 1934 has had. We wish, however, the outlook were more favourable. *Fear* is still a chief factor in the lives of many peoples and nations. The call for *security* is loudly made by every nation and by people in every land. The new year will open up with this dominant cry in every quarter of the globe. Fortunately, few of us are able to see far into the future. And this is well.

And yet an answer to our call for security is in our own keeping, perhaps not fully within our keeping as individuals, but it certainly is when we think of ourselves as nations and organized society. We repeat what we have written before, if all men and nations were to practise completely the Golden Rule, security would come into every home of every nation. Think this matter through and, though you may at first doubt, you probably will be surprised to find you conclude that our statement is true. Myriads of people want security in the jobs by which they make their living. In a world where there is a plenty for all they could have this security if all men observed the two Great Commandments. People everywhere dread war and would like to be safe from its terrible ravages and trying consequences. This safety would be certain if righteousness governed the conduct

of every nation. Every family would like to find happiness within its circle. This desire would be satisfied if love ruled therein strong enough to establish conduct in which everyone regarded the other as tenderly as himself.

Does it thus appear that the remedy for conditions now so unsatisfactory, even approaching the chaotic in places, is simple? Why then is it not applied? The answer is that it is so difficult to change men's hearts. And such a change must of necessity take place before the practise of the Golden Rule can become established. Such a change must also be an individual change—a change in each person. But to act, a person must be motivated. And motive is rooted in faith, in this case in a strong living faith in Christ our Lord, as our example and redeemer. When men are changed so much that they desire justice and righteousness to prevail everywhere and are willing to work unselfishly, persistently, and energetically for their establishment, then peace with security will come to our troubled homes and lands. But this attitude of men, either as individuals, groups or nations will spring only out of love of fellows as great as a love of self, that is, out of a love that is born only with a deep and abiding faith in God.

Alas, the security for which all men so earnestly long is not yet in sight. Must we suffer more sorrows and tribulations before we learn that righteousness must prevail before peace, and hence security, will be established?

May the Lord give us eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to understand and wills to do!—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

ALL IN ONE

RECENTLY, suggestions have been made that, since atheism has begun a systematic attack on all religions, all the religious forces of the world ought to unite in defense of their position. "Not only Christians," it has been said, "ought to co-operate, but all the great world religions should meet in a common institution for research, in the interest of truth. Christians, both Catholics and Protestants, object, on the ground that there can be no cooperation between paganism and Christianity. But is this not a too hasty conclusion?"

What is this paganism and what is this Christianity? What is Buddhism, Brahmanism, Shintoism, Taoism, etc., and what is Catholicism with its numerous relatives and offspring?

Historically considered, the pagan religions mentioned are the lineal descendants of the patriarchal religion, revealed to Adam and saved from extinction through Noah. Catholicism is the lineal descendant from the religion of Jesus, also historically considered. But this, too, is a matter of history: The pagan religions have deviated so far from the patriarchal religion, each in its own direction, that the origin is difficult to trace. And, in the same way, Catholicism, in all its forms, has deviated from the religion of Jesus.

Erring pagans and erring Christians might therefore well come together and consult on the road back to Jesus and to the revealed religion of the Patriarchs.

The Mosaic dispensation was superseded, when Jesus sent His apostles to preach the Gospel to every creature—a command that has been repeated in our day and age, through the divine calling of Joseph Smith, the Prophet. The religion of the Patriarchs has never been repealed.

Honest research will disclose the fact that the religion of the Patriarchs, the religion of Jesus, and the religion of the Latter-day Saints are, in all essentials, identical. It is one religion. And the atonement on Calvary is the center of it. Ours is the dispensation of "the fulness of times"; it is "A whole and complete and perfect union, and welding together of dispensations, and keys, and powers, and glories. . . . from the days of Adam even to the present time." (Doctrine and Covenants 128:18.)

All the world is invited to examine this statement of the Prophet Joseph, impartially. It will stand the closest scrutiny.—(J. M. SJODAHL, in the *Deseret News*, December 1, 1934.)

A CHANGE THAT REFLECTS A CHANGE

THE press cutting files of the European Mission office publicity bureau provide an interesting and graphic picture of a singular change in public opinion. There, recorded and indexed, are cuttings of almost every press notice containing reference to Mormonism that has appeared in the British Press in the past ten years.

In 1924, when prejudice, though on the wane, was still noticeably rampant, very few articles favourable to the latter-day cause relieved the disgusting monotony of calumny and opprobrium directed against our people. The years in between show a gradual and heartening transition. By 1934 the tables were quite completely turned. In the flood of favourable and commendatory publicity received there were noticeably few articles written in the old spirit of dogmatic and intolerant determination to slander Mormonism at all costs.

Typical of the average 1934 press notice, reflecting the growing interest that the British people have for the truth concerning Mormonism, is the following item, taken from among the cuttings that were received daily from all over the country. It appeared in the *Nelson Leader*, a weekly newspaper in Lancashire:

Mr. Harry Uttley of Padiham, addressed the combined senior classes of the Methodist School last Sunday afternoon, Mr. J. W. Hargreaves presiding over a large attendance. Mr. Uttley gave an entertaining description of his ten years' residence in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he was engaged in mining engineering, and by special request, his address centred mainly upon the Mormons, or as they prefer to be known, the Latter-day Saints. Mr. Uttley pointed out that polygamy, which is no longer practised among the Mormons, was in its day but a side issue, though this was evidently not appreciated by many people, whose ideas seemed to be that it was the main tenet of the faith. Ideas of that kind, he said, led to the creating of much prejudice, and he felt it is his duty to say that he found the Mormons were anything but what they were set up as being by un-

enlightened people, whose source of knowledge was the sensational stuff served up by irresponsible authors. Among people of the Mormon faith he had made the acquaintance of many fine men and women, and the moral tone of Salt Lake City could, from the average standard, be described as high. A vote of thanks to Mr. Uttley was moved by Mr. J. W. Hargreaves, of Nelson, and the seconder was Mr. J. Rawlinson,

The change in public interest and opinion but reflects another gratifying change. To be well versed in the calumnious mis-information about Mormonism used to be, it would seem, one of the requisites of one who considered himself well-informed. And to be a Mormon was resignedly to feel that one had espoused the cause of a despised and outcast people.

But the old order changeth. Today, to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is to be respected, admired, and to be given the deference and consideration that is the right of a member of any religious body. And to revel and traffic in the gross mis-information, garbled history and maliciously fabricated stories that were the stock-in-trade of the anti-Mormon propagandist of the past is to brand oneself as pitifully ignorant and uninformed.—R. S. B.

THE GRACE OF CONTINUANCE

By EMILY T. MERRILL

THIS is the season of the year when one's thoughts linger in retrospect as well as prospect. Letting my thoughts go back to past experiences and perhaps resting for moments on this or that lost opportunity, a thought which I gathered long years ago comes back to me. It is a thought that came to me through a poem I read many years ago. This thought I would like to give to you in the hope, yes, in the knowledge, that it will be of help to you.

The poem that I read was the prayer of one who had suffered many trials and privations. In his anxiety he went to the Lord and sought the Lord's help to strengthen him to remain faithful and steadfast. There was one phrase in the poem which I have always remembered. He prayed for "the grace of continuance." I think this phrase lingered because it put into words a great human need.

It is generally quite easy to make a beginning—with a piece of work, with an ideal in life, with a new habit that we want to form, even with a new religion—and for a while we continue quite happily what we have started to do. But there comes a time sooner or later when the first enthusiasm fades away, when what was once so full of interest and of hope has grown dull and irksome and monotonous. Then we give up and forget and decide to try something else. At least many of us do.

There are always some who go on and on because through the help of the Lord they are enjoying "the grace of continuance." They are encouraged by some little progress they have made, and they are spurred on by the success of their achievement. They are courageous and determined to be steadfast. They have put their hands to the plow and they are not going to look

back. They have made their resolutions and they are not going to break them. These are people who have "the grace of continuance." I wish we all had it.

Enthusiasm is a fine quality, but many times in our enthusiasm we act without much deliberation. We envisage the result that could be achieved, but forget the struggle involved to achieve our aim. Some people were drawn to Christ during His life upon this earth. These people saw the miracles He performed, they listened to His teachings and wanted to become His followers. They were fascinated by the advantages that would come to them if they followed Christ, but in their enthusiasm they forgot the grim realities with which they must grapple before this good could come to them. I will quote just one passage from St. Mark, Chapter 10, verses 17 to 22. We read:

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and thy mother.

And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: For he had great possessions.

HOW enthusiastic this young man was when he came to Christ with the desire to become a follower. But see how this enthusiasm faded when Christ told him what to do. His worldly possessions were very dear to the heart of this young man. Jesus knew this. To possess such riches is not a sin, but "the love of money is the root of all evil," as Paul wrote to Timothy.

Well, human nature is still much the same. We take things up and then drop them. We make all sorts of good resolutions, like New Year resolutions—who has not made them!—which last just a week or so, and then lapse into forgetfulness, leaving us to slip back into the old ways and the old habits.

The vision comes to us and while it lingers we make great affirmations of life-long loyalty and obedience. But when it goes and the vision fades into the light of common day, we do not carry for long our high resolve into the humdrum of ordinary life. We become disheartened; we despise ourselves for our weakness in allowing the evil one to get this influence over us—we forget our promises and become as we were before. What a pity that is, and how different life would be if only we had "the grace of continuance," the strength to endure, the courage and the will to carry out our good resolutions.

This is a gift of God and well might we pray for it and then work to make our prayer come true. Make prayer an active thing. It is not enough to pray to the Lord to help us and then sit down and let the Lord do the rest. Things worth having are worth working for. If we make resolutions and if we set our-

selves high ideals then we must work to achieve them. Of course, we are human beings and as such we have limitations. But if we have faith in God, we ought to know that the power of God, working for us and with us and within us, can remove these limitations.

If we have faith enough, Christ said, the impossible becomes possible and that because, instead of trusting to our own weak resources there comes to our aid the inexhaustible power of God. That is why we should pray for "the grace of continuance." We should pray that our very weakness may be our strength, because it may show us when and where alone strength is to be found.

To each and everyone of us there come moments in which we have to decide whether we want to continue with the resolves we have made. If we drift aimlessly like a helpless vessel at sea we cannot hope to be true to the best that is in us. Let us ask the Lord in all humility for help and guidance. Through the help of the Holy Spirit we may succeed in realizing our high purposes and ideals.

RING OUT THE OLD, RING IN THE NEW

By ELDER LANE W. ADAMS

FAMILIAR to all the world are the chimes of the famous Big Ben. This year, as in other years, its sonorous peals, by the aid of the wireless, were heard in every nation, proclaiming to all the birth of a new year.

Individuals, at this season of the year, have a tendency to review the events of the year that has passed. In businesses of all descriptions inventories are taken. People delight in the thoughts of past accomplishments, and reluctantly recollect failures and defeats, with a determination to profit by past experience.

The past year has been a year of revolutionary steps in all fields of endeavour. Black and Scott were able to set up an unbelievable record in their British plane, bringing Australia within a few hours of London. Mr. Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, showed a balance sheet which revealed a £15,000,000 surplus, thus effecting a reduction in various taxes. Britain maintained and strengthened her position as Mistress of the Seas by launching the world's largest liner, the *Queen Mary*. Fred Perry and Dorothy Round wielded their racquets with amazing dexterity to win the coveted tennis titles. All the world joined in the romance and marriage of Prince George and Princess Marina.

Countless other events have occurred. Governments have been overthrown, kings and rulers assassinated, and insurrection has waged a rampant battle; but through it all Britain has retained the same stabilizing influence of security which has so characterized this great state in days gone by.

In the religious world changes have been less drastic, but still ecclesiastical iconoclasts have attacked cherished beliefs, have

modified others. One divine has even attempted to refute the veracity of the miracles our Saviour performed.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, undaunted by the spirit of skepticism, marches forward with truth unaltered, and faith sufficient to quell all perplexities.

During the last year in Britain the Church has made progressive strides; old applications of fundamental truths are being replaced by new, and a general spirit of development exists. Auxiliaries have shed old shells which restricted expansion; a new chapel has been erected, others have been renovated; and in general, places of worship have been materially improved. Certificates granting permission to perform marriages in our Church-owned chapels have been issued—the Church is gradually becoming recognized in its true light.

Now on the threshold of a new year, having tasted the sweetness of advancement and the vision of growth, let us resolve to profit by past experiences, and drive forward with fiery zeal.

Why not include the following resolutions with those we propose for the New Year?

I resolve to: Support the "New Deal" in Auxiliaries.

Develop the gift of conformity to Church procedure.

Be slow to criticize; quick to offer encouragement.

Capitalize on every opportunity to spread the message of truth.

Convince one soul, "by my actions," of the efficacy of Mormonism.

Development will come to each individual and the Church if we adhere tenaciously to these resolutions. Modern revelation is the key to progression; let us take cognizance of the will of God as expressed through our leaders, and strive to assist the Lord in the dissemination of truth.

"Ring out the false, ring in the true,
Ring out the old, ring in the new."

A TESTIMONY CONCERNING PRESIDENT IVINS

RELATIVE to the complaint of a few *Millennial Star* readers that too much space was given to President Ivins on the occasion of his death, a British saint who lived in Utah for several years comes stoutly to the defence of the *Millennial Star*, saying, among other things:

"If only those members of the Church who have been complaining had known President Ivins as I knew him, I am sure they would not have objected to the space devoted to him in the *Millennial Star*. A more humble, lovable, God-fearing man I have yet to meet.

"To me his life and works are an inspiration; his memory, a benediction. I feel that it is my place to say that I enjoyed and appreciated every word that I read about him in the *Millennial Star*."

This reader is not alone in his defence of the deference and tribute paid to President Ivins. Other readers have written to the editor expressing surprise that members of the Church should

find fault with the *Millennial Star* for honouring, as it did, a man whose long and eventful life was devoted to the service of his people, and who served as a member of the Council of Twelve, and as a counsellor in the First Presidency of the Church.

The policy and purpose of the *Millennial Star* is to preach the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. The lives of many of the men who have stood and who now stand at the head of the Restored Church of Christ provide one of the strongest testimonies of the truth of its claims and teachings—the testimony of its influence for good in human lives.

We are happy that among our readers are those who realize this, and who appreciate the efforts of the *Millennial Star* to bring to them the accomplishments and faith-promoting experiences of those who, with them, love and serve the Cause of the Lord.—THE EDITORS.

CHURCH WIDE NEWS

THERE are now 110 Stakes of Zion. Unwaveringly the Church has gone forward. On December 9th, under the direction of President Heber J. Grant, President J. Reuben Clark, and Presiding Bishop Sylvester Q. Cannon, the New York Stake of Zion was organized in the state where the Church was originally established 104 years ago.

In speaking of the consistent growth of the Church, President Grant remarked on the recent organization of stakes in San Francisco and Oakland, California, and intimated that a stake was soon to be established in Hawaii. Four wards and three dependent branches with an aggregate membership of 2,000 now comprise the new stake where there were less than 100 Church members when President Grant first visited New York as a Church representative

50 years ago. The change from a district of the Eastern States Mission was effective January, 1st with Elder Fred G. Taylor as stake president.

One hundred descendants of Mormon pioneers, recruited from the Washington D. C. Young Men's and Young Women's Mutual Improvement Associations, participated in a huge pageant staged on the east plaza of the National Capitol in Washington on October 5th. These young people were called by directors of the Self-help Patriotic Pageant to depict the cooperative spirit expressed by their illustrious forebears in building an empire in the wilderness of the West. This comes as another indication of the high respect in which the Church and its work is now held in America.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Releases: Elder Bartlett L. Christensen, who laboured in the Portsmouth and London districts, the latter over which he presided, was honourably released from active missionary duty on December 22nd. He sailed from Havre aboard the s.s. *Washington* on December 29th.

Transfers: Elder Ormond S. Coulam was transferred from the

Manchester to the London district on December 19th.

Appointments: Sister Ramona W. Cannon was set apart by President Joseph F. Merrill as British Mission Relief Society president and Consulting Advisor for women's work in the Mission.

Doings in the Districts: *Liverpool*—Funds for Christmas aid for

the distressed were raised at the annual Relief Society Bazaar and Sale of Work held in the Bootle branch on December 12th. The function was well patronized by members and friends.

Under the direction of Relief Society President Sister Belle Blackburn, a bazaar and sale of work was staged in the Blackburn branch hall on December 15th. A playlet by the Branch Primary children, community games, and a potato pie supper were features of the evening.

A cottage meeting held under the direction of the district elders attracted a gathering of twenty-two to the home of Sister Molly Taylor to the Blackburn branch. The theme, "Priesthood and Authority," was discussed.

London—The London Pitfield Street Baths was the scene of a baptismal service presided over by District President Bartlett L. Christensen on December 15th. Brother Noel Rummery-Blackford and Sister Ada Harris, both members of the Southwest London Branch, were baptized by Elder Gordon B. Hinckley. Confirmation followed the next day at the branch hall.

Members and friends of the London district met in the Argyle Hall, London, on December 22nd, to bid farewell to President and Sister James H. Douglas and District President Bartlett L. Christen-

sen and to welcome President and Sister Joseph J. Cannon and family. The programme, conducted by Dr. Ray M. Russell, included talks by President and Sister Joseph F. Merrill, President and Sister Douglas, President and Sister Cannon, President Christensen and Sister Alice Blainey. Sister Inez Cameron Russell and Mary E. Poole rendered vocal solos. An elders' quartette gave two selections. Readings were given by Sister Madeline Hill. Following the programme tokens of remembrance were presented to President and Sister Douglas and President Christensen by the members of the London district, and President and Sister Douglas were given pins by the British Missionaries' Association.

Sheffield—Saints and friends of the Barnsley branch met in branch conference on Sunday, December 2nd. Speakers in the evening session were District President George H. Bailey and Elders Herbert T. Edgar and George E. Astle. Sunday School children provided the programme of the afternoon session, the theme being "The Teachings of the Saviour." Branch President Robert H. Briggs conducted the sessions.

The Barnsley branch reports that the attendance at cottage meetings held in the homes of different members of the branch is very encouraging, and that such meetings are an effective proselyting force within the branch.

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